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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,297	11/25/2003	Laura Suggs Stinnett	9D-HL-25129	9069

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EXAMINER

RINEHART, KENNETH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,297

Applicant(s)

STINNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth B Rinehart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 10-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakane et al. Sakane et al shows a first initial spin (fig. 3); a first rest period after said first initial spin (fig. 3); and a spin subsequent said first rest period commencing immediately after said first rest period, said spin subsequent said first rest period comprising a spin lasting until an end of said spin cycle (fig. 3), a second initial spin subsequent the first rest period ; and a second initial spin commencing immediately after said first rest period (fig. 3) and a second rest period subsequent the second initial spin, said spin subsequent said first rest period comprising a spin subsequent said second rest period and lasting until said end of said spin cycle (fig. 3), a basket (fig. 1); a motor providing motion for said basket (fig. 1); and a controller operatively coupled to said motor for controlling said motor (fig. 1), said controller configured to perform a spin cycle between a wash cycle and a rinse cycle by starting said motor for a first initial spin, stopping said motor for a first rest period, and starting said motor immediately following the first rest period to spin until the spin cycle ends (fig. 3), said controller is further configured to start said motor for a second initial spin subsequent the first rest period, stop said motor for a second rest period immediately following the second initial spin, and start said motor subsequent the second rest period to spin until the spin cycle ends (fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakane et al. Sakane et al shows a basket (fig. 1); a motor providing motion for said basket (fig. 1); and a controller operatively coupled to said motor for controlling said motor (fig. 1), said controller configured to perform a spin cycle between a wash cycle and a rinse cycle by starting said motor for a first initial spin, stopping said motor for a first rest period, and starting said motor immediately following the first rest period to spin until the spin cycle ends (fig. 3), said controller is further configured to start said motor for a second initial spin immediately following the first rest period, stop said motor for a second rest period subsequent the second initial spin, and start said motor subsequent the second rest period to spin until the spin cycle ends (fig. 3), wherein said controller comprises an electronic controller (fig. 2), A control system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a basket and a motor coupled to the basket to provide agitation in the basket (fig. 1), said control system configured to perform a spin cycle between a wash cycle and a rinse cycle by starting the motor for a first initial spin, stopping said motor for a first rest period, and starting the motor immediately following the first rest period to spin until the spin cycle ends (fig. 3), further configured to start the motor for a second initial spin subsequent the first rest period, stop motor for a second rest period subsequent the second initial spin, and starting the motor subsequent the second rest period to spin until the spin cycle

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ends (fig. 3). Sakane et al discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of at least one of the first initial spin and the second initial spin lasts for approximately eight seconds, wherein at least one of the first rest period and the second rest period last for approximately twelve seconds, said controller comprises an electromechanical controller, the first and second initial spins are at a first speed and the spin subsequent the second initial spin is at a second speed which is faster than the first speed. At the time the invention was made it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have at least one of the first initial spin and the second initial spin lasts for approximately eight seconds, wherein at least one of the first rest period and the second rest period last for approximately twelve seconds, said controller comprises an electromechanical controller, the first and second initial spins are at a first speed and the spin subsequent the second initial spin is at a second speed which is faster than the first speed because applicant has not disclosed that the duration of the spins, the type of controller, or the relative magnitude of the speeds provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with either the duration of the spins, controller, and speeds of Sakane or the claimed times, controller and speeds because both sets of times, controllers and speeds perform the same function of washing equally well.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B Rinehart whose telephone number is 571-272-4881. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:20 -4:20.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 571-272-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

kbr


KENNETH RINEHART
PRIMARY EXAMINER